The Year Book of Facts in Science and Art. Bogue, Fleet-street, 1846.

Pope says, "What should one read for? For! why to know facts;" and truly nothing is to be done without them. "The wisest in council," remarks Burke, "the ablest in debate, and the most agreeable companion in the commerce of human life, is that man who has assimilated to his understanding the greatest number of facts." What more need be said to recommend the little volume now before us to all our readers; we would especially mention it as a fitting present to the young.

Correspondence.

"DEFECTS IN CAST-IRON GIRDERS—CONVEYANCE OF GIRDERS.

Sir,—I this morning witnessed an occurrence of rather a curious character. As a timber carriage was proceeding down Aldersgate-street with a very heavy girder for the Money Order Office, it broke in two pieces about 15 feet from one end, to the injury of a horse; now it strikes me, if the girder had been placed on edge instead of flatways, this would not have happened. It appears to be a general practice to load girders of this description so, but this was a very long one about 45 feet; the bearings of carriage were about 20 feet apart, so that it hung about 12 feet over each end. The great sway thus necessarily produced is a dangerous test for cast-iron.

A few observations from you as a caution to others would be valuable, and may prevent similar accidents.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.

W. A. L.

Miscellanea.

Improved Gas Burner.—Some months ago we laid before our readers drawings of an improved stove, and means of ventilation, arranged and patented by Mr. Leslie. The theory of combustion, and the best mode of effecting combustion practically, have occupied this gentleman's attention several years; he invented a gas-burner some time ago, the best of its kind, and of which thousands have been used, and he has now invented a second that promises to supersede all others, giving a greatly improved light with less gas. Its construction is perfectly simple; we avoid describing it, as the proceedings necessary to secure the invention in France are not yet completed, but think it right to recommend it to the prompt attention of gas companies and consumers.

Nail Forgers' Strike.—Upwards of 400 nail-forgers in Hales Owen are again on the strike. It will perhaps be remembered that some weeks back a similar strike took place, when the masters, after mature consideration, agreed to give the full price, without discount; accordingly the men commenced working, and continued doing so up to the last two or three weeks, when the principal master began to reduce the make per thousand, on some sorts, equal to a discount of from 10 to 20 per cent. In consequence, the nail-forgers' association have caused the workmen to strike, and are now supporting them at a cost of about 80*l.* per week.—*Wolverhampton Chronicle.*

Statistics of Paris.—Paris says the *Constitutionnel*, has a population of 912,035 souls; it covers a superficies of 396,800 square metres, or 3,439 hectares, 68 ares. There are 42,000 houses, 1,922 public thoroughfares, 57 barriers, 46 *chimins de ronde*, 37 quays, 20 boulevards, 37 avenues, 133 squares, 37 bridges 105 "courts" or "cities" cloisters, &c., 9 palaces, 23 remarkable edifices, 6 public gardens, 4 principal arches, 5 columns, 1 obelisk (the Luxor), 35 libraries, 15 museums, 28 fountains, 38 churches, 25 convents, 26 hospitals, 4 equestrian statues, 24 theatres, and 39 barracks.

Pershore Abbey Church.—This venerable edifice is at present undergoing extensive and necessary improvements. The chancel is being completely restored, and in addition, the pews are being re-arranged, and the pulpit and reading-desk placed in a more eligible position.

New Church in Westminster.—Miss Burdett Coutts is said to have contributed no less a sum than 30,000*l.* for the erection and endowment of a church, parsonage-house, and schools.

Extinction of Fires.—A correspondent in *Mayler's Bath Paper*, considering how many fires are destructive for want of early supply of water, suggests the construction of a sufficient number of water-carts, so as to supply each fire-engine station with one or two of them; that they be constantly filled with water *saturated with pearlash;* and whenever the engines are ordered out, that they be accompanied by one or more of these water-carts. On the arrival of the engines at the spot where the fire has broken out, the firemen are to commence their operations with a supply of this *prepared water*, conveyed from the carts by means of a hose or fire buckets; after the carts have exhausted their cargoes (and, in the event of no water being procureable on the spot) they are to proceed at the quickest trot, or canter, to the nearest pump, well, watercourse, or river, for a supply of water; they are then to return to the scene of action to replenish the engines; after which they will return to the station (if not further needed), with the exception of such as may be required to remain on the spot for the conveyance of individuals who may have sustained injuries to the nearest hospital. It is the opinion of an eminent professor, that *one pound of pearlash* will be required for each gallon of water; the pearlash must be dissolved in hot water previous to being mixed with the cold. Water saturated with pearlash thrown upon a fire will instantly extinguish it if of ever so combustible a nature. Water-carts have for a considerable time past been employed at Liverpool, to accompany the fire-brigade when ordered out; also at Plymouth and Devonport.

Open the Cathedrals!—"The dean and chapter of Norwich have given orders that their cathedral shall be opened to the public two hours a day. "Magnanimous dean and chapter!" says the *Edinburgh Weekly Express*, "Generous dean and chapter! Condescending dean and chapter! Great, no doubt, is your self-glorification at having made the tremendous sacrifice of throwing open, for two whole hours every day, without money and without price, the church of God that is under your control. But ah! good dean and good chapter, you have not made such a wonderful concession after all. You appear not to be aware that the cathedral church of Norwich is not yours, but the nation's—not yours, but the people's—and that, consequently, in keeping it shut up for all but two hours a day, you perpetrate a monstrous wrong, and commit a monstrous fraud. In sober truth, the conduct of this dean and chapter of Norwich, as well as of all other deans and chapters in England, is most abominable. They make show-places of their churches as if they were theatres."

Art-Union Cartoons.—His Royal Highness Prince Albert inspected the cartoons on Monday last, and expressed himself warmly as to the merits of several of them. The exhibition will close this evening, Saturday. The committee propose, with the consent of the artists, to reduce a certain number of the cartoons and issue them in outline. The following additional names of competitors have been communicated to us by correspondents:—"Alfred surrounded by his Family," *W. P., Salter.* "1st May-day," J. Leighton. "Ancient Britons defending their Families," and "Spenser reading the Faerie Queene to Sir Walter Raleigh," Marshall Claxton.

Chief Commissioner of Woods and Works.—Lord Lincoln has been appointed secretary for Ireland; Lord Sandon is spoken of as his successor in the above office. We take this opportunity to express our thanks to the late chief commissioner for the assistance afforded us by his lordship, and a most courteous expression of his approbation.

The masons employed in building the bridges and culverts on the Newcastle and Berwick Railway, near Alnwick, have struck work for an advance of wages. They have made a proposal to their employer to resume work on receiving the same wages as are paid on the southern part of the line—viz., 26*s.* per week.

Public Park in Liverpool.—The Liverpool corporation has agreed to give upwards of 80,000*l.* for the Newsham estate of 200 acres, contiguous to the Zoological Gardens, for a public park. The purchase of other ground, so as to surround these picturesque gardens, is talked of.

Fall of a Warehouse at Liverpool.—Last Saturday week a corn and flour warehouse, seven stories high, and situate in Moor-street, Liverpool, fell with a tremendous crash. There were at the time of the calamity 11,000 sacks of flour, a large quantity of the same material in barrels, besides much cotton and grain in the building. The cause of the accident is believed to have been the loading of the warehouse beyond its capacity. Fortunately no lives were lost.

The parish church of Uffculme, near Collumpton (in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean of Sarum), is about to be enlarged, and a spire added to the tower, and other improvements effected, at an expense of 1,300*l.* of which sum 800*l.* has already been raised by voluntary contributions.

Carved Furniture.—A public dining-room at Campbell's Scotch Stores, in Beak-street, Regent-street, recently built by Messrs. Cubitt of Gray's-Inn-lane, is fitted up with a greater amount of decoration than usual. The furniture which was executed by Greig of Farringdon-street deserves praise.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled by the interference of the Stamp Office to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c., are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers, however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For the erection of a church at Eye, near Peterborough.

For the erection of the stations and lodges at Bentley and Ardleigh, on the Eastern Union Railway.

For supplying the East-India Company with British iron.

For the erection of a portion of the River Wall at the northern extremity of the Dock estate, Liverpool, being about 560 feet in length by 40 feet in height.

For the erection of a new church at East Compton, near Oldham.

For the erection of a lighthouse at Shoreham.

For the erection of a workhouse in the Harrow-road, for the guardians of the poor of the parish of Paddington.

For the erection of a monastery near Market Weighton.

COMPETITIONS.

A premium of 50*l.* is offered for the best approved plan in the elevations and sections of a public exchange, to be erected at Blackburn. Two additional premiums of 20*l.* and 10*l.* will be awarded to the second and third best.

Plans and designs are required for an asylum to be erected in the neighbourhood of London, for aged and infirm fishmongers and poulterers. The style to be Elizabethan or Gothic, and the cost not to exceed 3,000*l.* The party whose design is most approved of will be appointed to superintend the erection. Ten guineas and five guineas will be awarded to the second and third best designs.

APPROACHING SALES OF WOOD, &c.

BY AUCTION.

At the Half-Moon Inn, Taunton: 161 capital maiden oak, 163 maiden elm, and a quantity of ash, poplar, sycamore, walnut, and yew timber trees; also 53 oak, ash, and elm pollard timber trees.

In the Alder Car, Mistley Park, Essex: 103 loads of oak, ash, elm, beech, lime, Spanish chestnut, horse chestnut, fir, and cedar timber trees. Many of the oaks and ashes are of large dimensions, and particularly straight and clear.

At the Rose and Crown Inn, Birdsmoregate, Dorset: 250 prime maiden oak, 45 ash, and 6 elm timber trees. The greater part is of good dimensions.

At Melton, near Woodbridge, Suffolk: a quantity of oak, ash, poplar, and chesnut timber trees, &c.

The Hasells, Sandy, Bedfordshire: a large fall of long large and straight, larch and Scotch spires.

At the Star-inn, East Tetherley, Hampshire: upwards of 1,000 capital firs, nearly 300 fine large elms, ash, and beech timber trees, &c.

At the Anchor-inn, Combwich, Somerset: 135 elm, and 19 ash timber trees, and 12 alder poles.

At Bayerstock, Wilts: a quantity of prime ash, beech, sycamore, and other timber, &c.

On the East Tetherley and Lockerley estates, near Salisbury: an extensive sale of capital oak.

At the King's Arms-inn, Oxenwood, Hants: 300 prime oak trees.

At Mucking Herony, Essex: 100 large elm timber trees, and 400 ash trees of various sizes and superior quality.

At the Manor House, Ashbocking: 200 Scotch firs, 40 ash, elm, and willow trees, 200 ash and elm pollards, &c.

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